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ABSTRACT

One of several reports on the status of children conducted for the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, this document is based on data obtained from 5,274 telephone interviews of registered voters conducted in 7 states and the District of Columbia during February, 1992. It reports voter opinion on issues affecting children, finding that respondents firmly support President Clinton's stated goals for children and expect him to fulfill his promises where children are concerned. The main body of the report lists the results in tabular form and provides a copy of the survey instrument and the results. Among the results reported were the following: (1) 73 percent of respondents rated children's issues first or second in importance of the Clinton Administration's stated goals; (2) at least 76 percent of respondents favored or strongly favored action on other child-related issues endorsed by Clinton, such as welfare reform, increased funding for education, waiting periods for handgun purchases, basic health care for children and pregnant women, Head Start, and unpaid family leave; and (3) 50 percent of respondents said they would favor Clinton's proposals for children even if they increased the deficit. (MDM)

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Coalition for America's Children

Who's for Kids ✓

and Who's Just Kidding ☐ ™

MANDATE FOR CHILDREN

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)"

Results of the first national survey documenting the attitudes of American voters to children's issues in the Clinton era, commissioned by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions for the Coalition for America's Children.

PS 022123

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MANDATE FOR CHILDREN

NACHRI:
Chairman: Alan W. Brass
President & CEO: Lawrence A. McAndrews
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Mandate for Children

National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions for the Coalition for America's Children

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Mandate for Children is part of a family of reports on the status of children conducted for the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) by the bipartisan polling team of The Tarrance Group and Celinda Lake, formerly with Greenberg/Lake, The Analysis Group and since with Mellman Lazarus Lake. In February 1992, 5,274 phone interviews were conducted, resulting in profiles of voters in seven states, one metropolitan area and the District of Columbia. Together, these profiles provide a comprehensive profile of voter's attitudes to the health, education, safety and security of America's children in the early days of the new Clinton Administration.

This is the fourth national public opinion survey supported by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, beginning in 1990. Most recently, the **State of the Child** report, issued for the Coalition for America's Children in January 1992, probed the public's understanding of the problems children face in our society and the directives they would deliver to public officials.

This latest report builds on our earlier research, exploring the public's expectations for the new Administration in Washington and from state and local leaders in the context of children's issues. The resulting data offer an indication of the extent to which the voters' "mandate for change" is, in fact, a mandate for children, driven in part by growing public concern over the deteriorating status of children.

The consensus on children, documented again in this report, holds great promise for bipartisan cooperation on at least one aspect of the public agenda. At the same time, high expectations are riding on a new Congress to deliver real change for children. Parents, teachers, pediatricians, community leaders and many other children's advocates across America must be ready to help their fellow citizens understand the choices that lie ahead of us in identifying and advancing child-friendly public policies, and in holding candidates from both sides of the political aisle accountable to kids.

The nation's 125 children's hospitals are proud to join the 40 million members of the Coalition for America's Children in continuing our commitment to educate ourselves and our communities about "who's for kids --- and who's just kidding?"

Lawrence A. McAndrews
President and CEO
National Association of Children's Hospitals
and Related Institutions

Putting Children First: Clinton's Mandate for Kids

A little over one year ago, we began our report for the Coalition for America's Children with a somewhat gloomy assessment:

> Faced with failing schools, unaffordable health care, random violence on the streets, and a stagnant economy, Americans are becoming increasingly frustrated with the paralysis on Capitol Hill. They worry, moreover, that politicians' neglect of these growing problems is damaging children and the future of this country.

Americans still worry about these problems, but they are feeling much more hopeful that President Clinton will follow through on his campaign promises to do something for children and families. They are particularly hopeful about the new president's commitment to addressing children's needs, and at the time of his inauguration ranked children at the top of those who would do better under Bill Clinton's presidency (70 percent "better off" -- US News and World Report).

While the American electorate continues to focus on the economy, health care, and the deficit as the issues that they are most concerned about, the findings from this study reveal that voters are just as insistent that government act decisively to reverse declining trends in children's health and education. In fact, voters see an investment in children's health and education as central to rebuilding America's economy and making America strong.

Voters firmly support, moreover, Clinton's stated goals for children and expect him to fulfill his promises where they are concerned. When asked to rate the importance of the Clinton administration's stated goals, fully 73 percent put children's issues first or second, and 50 percent put them first. Children's issues, then, compete strongly with the economy (65 percent), the deficit (73 percent), and health care (73 percent), and rank ahead of two other prominent goals of the Clinton administration: national service (38 percent) and campaign finance reform (37 percent).

Americans want to come together to solve the country's problems and are united across generations, demographic groups, and partisan identification in their desire to reverse declining trends in children's health and education. Two-thirds of nearly every demographic group rate the importance of investing in children highly, including Clinton (76 percent rate children as 6 or 7), Perot (73 percent) and Bush voters (65 percent). It is the highest priority, moreover, for women and younger voters, specifically working women, younger women, voters under 40 years old, especially younger voters without a college education, Hispanic voters, voters with children under 18 years old, and upper-income voters. As we have seen in previous research, these voters tend to be the core constituency for children's issues. Importantly, however, this issue commands support beyond

parents of young children. While those with children under 18 years old are slightly more enthusiastic about investing in children (76 percent), even grandparents and voters with no children rate the issue highly (70 percent). With the number of households with children at an all time low -- with only one household in six now containing a young child -- it is critical to the political salience of children's issues that they maintain the strong support of voters without young children.

The support for children is strong across regions, but is somewhat lower among voters in the Pacific states, where 66 percent place children as a priority, compared to over 70 percent of voters in most other regions of the country.

Importance of President's Goals On a Scale from 1 to 7		
	Percent Rate as 6/7	Percent Rate as 7
Reducing the deficit	74	56
Reforming health care	73	53
Reversing declining trends in children's health and education	**73**	**50**
Increasing growth and investment in the economy	65	46
Instituting national service to help pay for a college education	38	21
Reforming the ways campaigns are financed	37	24

National Concerns are Children's Concerns

Voters perceive children's needs as integral to their concerns about broad national issues. When they think about stimulating the economy for the long term, their top solution is investing in the health and education of our children (37 percent top stimulus). When they think about health care reform, they place children as the first group to address (45 percent). When asked to choose, voters

would prefer to invest in children now (74 percent agree) rather than cut back on children's programs to overcome the recession and deficit (21 percent agree).[1]

Registered voters who chose not to vote in the last presidential election are especially likely to list investing in children as the top economic stimulus (43 percent) -- an indication that concern for children could prove a powerful incentive for citizen participation among those least likely to vote: younger women, homemakers, young voters without a college education, and lower income voters. In other research, we have found that for younger women in particular, voting for their children, rather than for themselves, is a primary way to activate voter participation.

Voters are even more likely, in fact, to want to invest in children than to pursue more traditional economic stimuli, such as: a middle-class tax cut (30

[1] *Specifically, voters believe:*

(74 percent) When it comes to children we're going to have to pay now in good schools and health care, or pay even more later in remedial education, welfare and prisons. They say that investing in good schools and health care for children is one of the best ways to get our economy moving in the long run and to have productive prosperous adults. A growing economy will get us out of the deficit, so we need to set priorities, cutting in some places but doing what it takes to invest in children now.

(21 percent) In recessionary times like these, we simply can't afford new programs and we will have to cut back on some existing programs, even ones like Head Start, health care for lower income children, and education spending. To get the deficit reduced and get the economy moving again we'll have to make some sacrifices in programs, even programs for children, because we cannot afford to leave the deficit to our children.

percent), job training (28 percent), increased taxes on the wealthy (28 percent), deficit reduction (27 percent), a balanced budget amendment (17 percent), stopping unfair trade practices (13 percent), or transportation projects to create jobs (11 percent).

This is true across most demographic groups, including among both Democrats (38 percent) and Republicans (37 percent). While voters across the country believe that investing in children is the most important way to improve the economy in the long-term, voters in the Mid-Atlantic and Pacific are particularly likely to choose children (44 percent and 42 percent respectively), and younger voters are significantly more likely to choose children (41 percent of voters under 45 years old) than older voters (29 percent among senior citizens). Finally, while investing in our children is viewed as a top economic stimulus by virtually all key voter groups, it becomes a real focus among voters with young children. While 32 percent of respondents without children indicate that investing in our children should be a top priority, support rises to fully 49 percent among voters with children between the ages of five and nine years old, a 17 point increase.

Similarly, children figure strongly in voters' attitudes about health care reform. While voters are concerned about health care for all Americans, they want children to be the top priority for health care reform (45 percent). This focus on children is especially significant given the fact that health care is rarely discussed in the media as a children's issue. Voters place children's health coverage over that of senior citizens (34 percent), even lower-income senior citizens (28 percent); and working adults (17 percent), even if they are lower income (20 percent). Even grandparents list children as a higher priority for health care reform than senior citizens (40-38 percent), and voters over 50 years old split evenly.

There is a gender gap on this issue that drives support for children as the priority group for full health care coverage. Approximately 49 percent of women indicate that children should be made the priority for health care coverage, and it drops ten points to 39 percent among men, though men still choose children over other groups.

In the past we have also found that voters were sensitive to whether children's programs were really only efforts for poor children and their support dropped off when this suspicion was invoked. Interestingly, we find voters less

sensitive than in the past with 45 percent ranking both children at the top among other generic groups and *poor* children at the top of other *poor* groups. In the context of a broadbased program like health care, voters have a real sympathy for poor children.

Support for Children's Proposals

Most voters consider health care and safety top priorities for children. Eager to control violence, they strongly support a 7 day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun (86 percent, 47 percent strong). They also want to ensure that the most vulnerable in society--pregnant women and children--have at least minimal health care (84 percent), and that parents are able to care for ill children and family members without risking their jobs (79 percent). Finally, at least three-quarters of voters support every Clinton education proposal. The education proposal that Clinton has most stressed, national service, enjoys 85 percent support, though the intensity of support is soft (24 percent strongly favor), especially when compared with other issues (38 percent rate the issue as a priority of 6 or 7).

Not only do voters value the elements of Clinton's vision that have to do with children, but they show strong support for specific Clinton proposals that promise to improve children's day-to-day lives. Clinton's most popular proposals are welfare reform and the Brady bill, which enjoy nearly unanimous support as well as a near majority of strong support.

Voters want, for instance, to move people from welfare to work, yet they don't want children to be forgotten in the process. Fully 86 percent would favor welfare reform that includes provisions for children's medical coverage and day care while their parents get back to work and back on their feet.

Support for Clinton Proposals		
	Percent Favor	Percent Strongly Favor
Reform welfare/workfare	93	50
7 day waiting period for gun	86	47
Basic health care for pregnant women and children	84	28
Unpaid leave for family illness	79	26
National service	85	24
Full funding of Head Start	81	24
Reform welfare/child care and medical coverage	86	23
Head Start for all children	76	19
Increase education funding	76	17

But What About the Deficit?

Even in the face of this strong commitment to children's issues, voters, however, are somewhat reluctant to endorse children's programs that would increase the deficit. By a narrow 50 to 42 percent, voters say they would favor Clinton's proposals for children *even if they increased the deficit.* Voters are, however, willing to endorse his programs if it simply means slowing down deficit reduction (61-26 percent). Voters who supported Clinton are least bothered by slowing down deficit reduction to help children (by a 54 point margin, Clinton voters favor his children's programs even if they slow deficit reduction). Delaying deficit reduction, rather than increasing the deficit, moves the most deficit-conscious voters from opposition to support of children's programs, including men, Republicans, and Bush and Perot voters.

Not only are voters cautious about the cost of these programs, but they wonder how much can be done to help children until the economy is back on track. For example, while fully 54 percent of voters still think it is very important that their state rank in the top 10 states in health care and education for children, this figure is fully 20 points lower than in November of 1991. The figure drops

an additional 14 points (to 40 percent) when a price-tag of increased taxes is mentioned.

Voters, then, still value health care and education, but they are increasingly willing to concede that being the absolute best might not be financially attainable right now. Regionally, voters living in the Mountain/Pacific region are most committed to being the best for their children (63 percent say this is very important). Even these voters, however, are less enthusiastic about paying higher taxes to do it (45 percent).

Supporting children's issues still gains votes. By a two to one margin voters say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports children's issues. However, voters are less enthusiastic than one year ago in their support of a representative who supports increased spending for children. In November 1991, we found that voters were more likely to support a candidate who supported increased spending for children, even if it increased taxes, by 67-21 percent. Today, such a candidate would enjoy a margin of 63-14 percent, but only by 50-28 percent if that meant an increase in their taxes. There is a dramatic drop-off of support in every demographic group when increased taxes are mentioned, though nearly every group still supports increased spending for children even if

it means increased taxes. Again, voters continue to support children's issues, but they are increasingly attuned to costs and taxes.[2]

High Expectations for the Man from Hope

As we mentioned at the outset, voters express the belief that President Clinton has children's best interests at heart and have high expectations that he will accomplish his goals for them. And, due largely to Clinton's election, they are much more confident today than a year ago that government will do what is right for children. In November 1991, half (50 percent) of voters stated that they were not at all confident that government would do what is right for children most of the time. Today, only 23 percent are not at all confident (-27 points), 61 percent are somewhat confident (+18 points), and 13 percent are very confident (+9 points) that government will do what is right for children most of the time.

[2] This sensitivity to taxes is further illustrated by the large number of voters who choose restructuring the tax system when asked what action would most improve the economy in the long term. As noted earlier, 30 percent choose a middle-class tax cut and 28 percent choose increasing taxes on the wealthy when asked what would do the most to improve the economy in the long term. A majority (58 percent), then, believe that some form of tax fairness is most important to the nation's economic well-being.

This increased confidence occurs across groups -- among Democrats (+38 points) as well as Independents (+19) and even Republicans (+14).

Most importantly, this renewed confidence is grounded in Bill Clinton. Fully 81 percent of voters say that they are confident (22 percent very confident) that the president will do what is right for children most of the time. However, this confidence is somewhat guarded in that six in ten voters indicate that they are only "somewhat confident" that Clinton will do what is right and 16 percent are not at all confident.

Clinton voters, not surprisingly, have the most confidence in him (94 percent, 35 percent very confident), but even those who didn't vote (72 percent, 18 percent), and those who voted for Perot (78 percent, 9 percent) or Bush (61 percent, 11 percent) are persuaded Clinton will do well for children.

Not only are expectations high, but voters also believe that the president will have an easier time enacting his proposals for children than his other proposals (by a margin of 62 to 24 percent). Older women, less-educated voters, minorities, and lower-income voters are particularly optimistic about his ability to fulfill his proposals for children. If Clinton does not fulfill his promises for

children in a way that satisfies the electorate, he will have a difficult time explaining to voters why he was not able to accomplish his stated goals.

The Next Step for Children's Advocates: Political Accountability

To give the children's movement real clout in the political arena, the Coalition for America's Children needs to put the question "Who's for kids and who's just kidding?" at the forefront of voters' consciousness. The 250 member organizations need to increase the visibility of the political choices for children in order to increase politicians' accountability. Voters care about implementing child-friendly policies, but they still have little concept of what government, and even their own representative, is actually doing about children's issues. They are willing to make voting decisions based on these issues but do not have the information they need to hold their elected officials accountable. Fully 78 percent of voters say they don't even know if their current member of Congress has supported or opposed increased spending for children's programs.

Surprisingly, this ignorance extends even to the presidential level. Fully 24 percent of voters are unaware of Clinton's proposals for children, and only 34 percent say these ideas were "extremely" or "very important" to their decision to

vote for him. Those who voted for Clinton are much more likely however, to say his proposals for children were extremely or very important to their vote (48 percent say they were important, 19 percent say they were not aware of them) than those who voted for Bush or Perot (46 and 50 percent, respectively, said they were not important, and 31 and 32 percent, respectively, said they were unaware of them). Those who did not vote in the presidential election are most likely to be unaware of Clinton's proposals for children (42 percent).

We have seen that voters will stand behind politicians who support children's programs and that voters like the priority Clinton accords to children. Moreover, voters are beginning to think less about children as a distinct political issue, and more and more as an integral part of larger national concerns. They want the needs of children factored into specific solutions to the biggest problems facing the country. When voters think about the decline of our economy, they worry about the future potential for their children and how families can make ends meet. When they think about the deficit, women in particular worry about what they are leaving their children. And when people worry about health care, they wonder whether they will find themselves unable to pay for medical care for a sick child.

Rather than thinking of children as a special-interest group, most voters factor children's needs into their understanding of virtually every national issue. Voters, then, want government to focus on the economy and health care not at the expense of children, but because of children. In short, they want economic stimulus and health-care reform framed with the needs of children and families in mind.

Politicians, on the other hand, have talked about children only in symbolic ways, and have talked about the policies too narrowly. Voters are ready to support candidates who will demonstrate, with specific policy proposals, that they are really for kids, and they are not "just kidding."

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Celinda Lake and the Tarrance Group designed and administered this telephone survey conducted by professional interviewers. The survey reached 5274 adults, 18 years or older, who indicated they are registered to vote. The survey was conducted between January 30 - February 17, 1993.

Telephone numbers for these interviews were generated by a random digit dial process, thereby allowing access to all listed and unlisted phones. The sample was stratified by state. Additional voters were sampled in Colorado, Washington D.C., Florida, Georgia, Mighigan, Ohio, Texas, Wisconsin, and the Kansas City region to provide adequate interviews for analysis of opinion in these areas. Quotas were assigned to reflect the contribution of these areas to the total vote in the 1992 General Election. The sample size with these weights applied is 1000 cases.

In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, on question 13, which all respondents answered, 54% of those interviewed think it is very important for their state to rank in the top 10 states in health care and education for children. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage will fall within 3.1% of this percentage. The table below represents the estimated sampling error for different percentage distributions of responses.

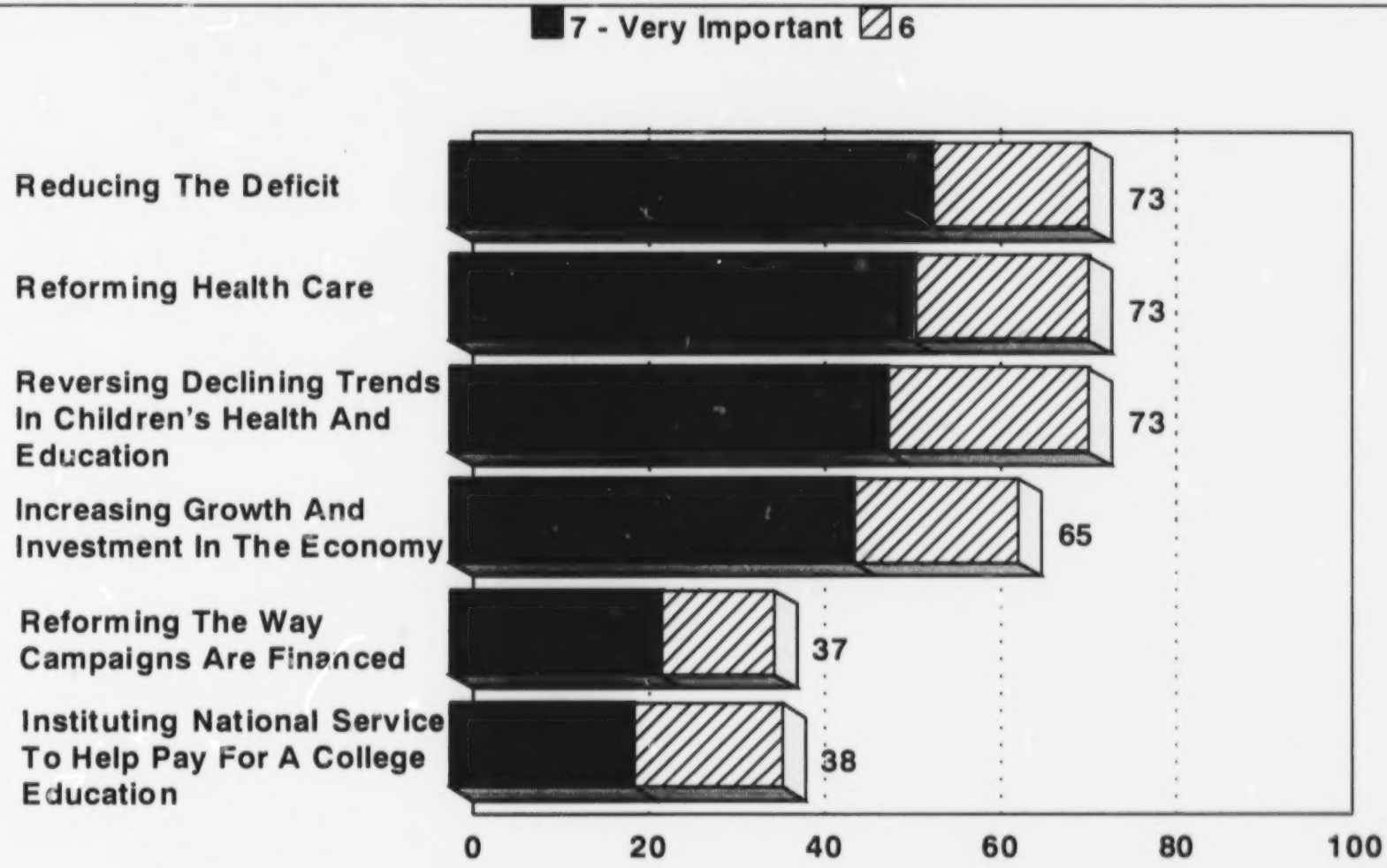
Sampling Error by Percentage
(at 95 in 100 confidence level)

SAMPLE SIZE	PERCENTAGES NEAR 10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1000	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	1.9
800	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.1
700	2.2	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.2
600	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.4
500	2.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.5	2.6
400	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.9	2.9
300	3.4	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.5	3.4
200	4.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.4	5.5	4.2
100	5.9	7.8	9.0	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.0	7.8	5.9

Clinton's Priorities

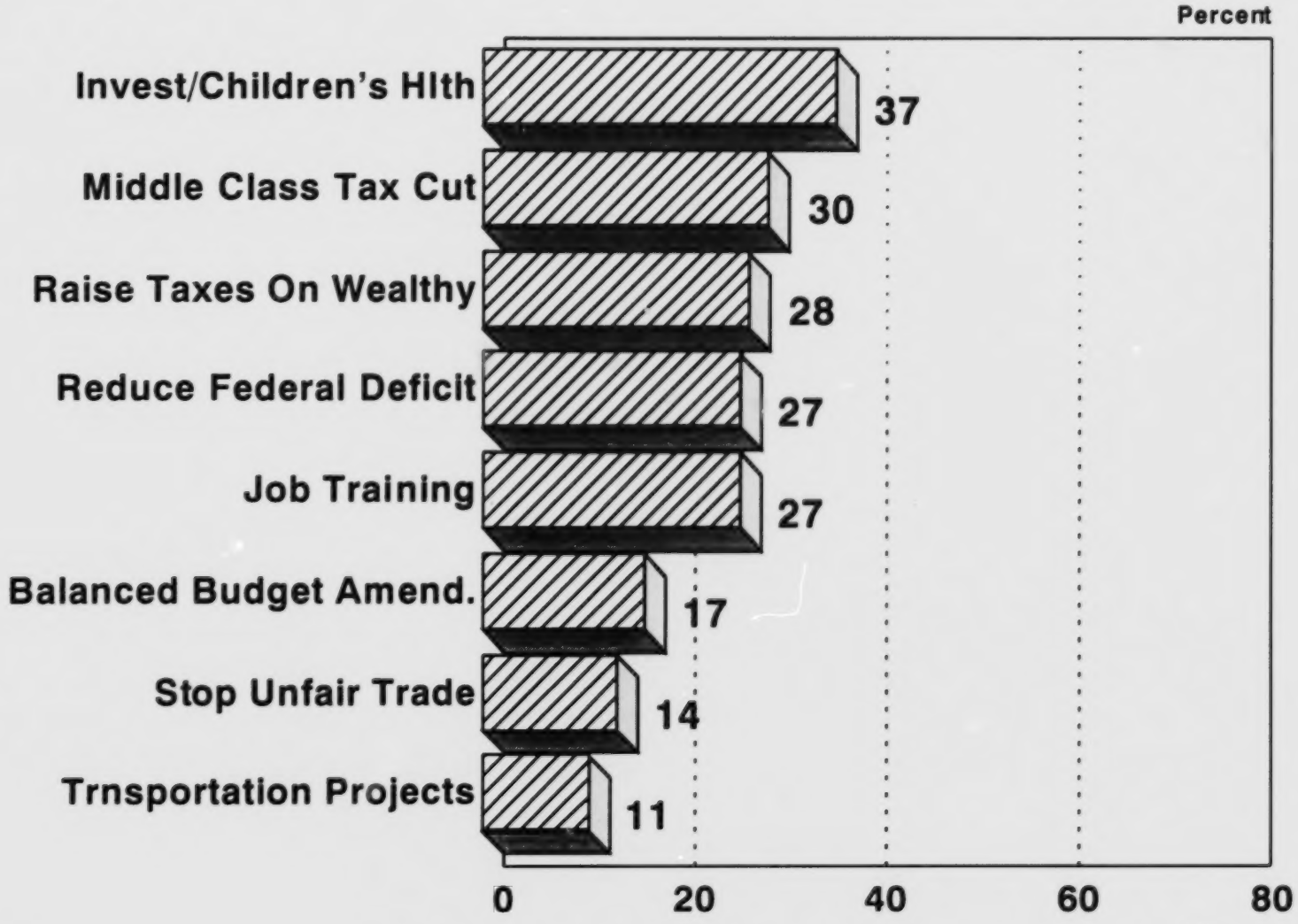
How Important Is It For President To Achieve Goals?

*** Scale Of 7-Very Important To 1-Not Important At All**



Stimulate Economy

In The Long Term, What Would Do Most To Stimulate Economy?

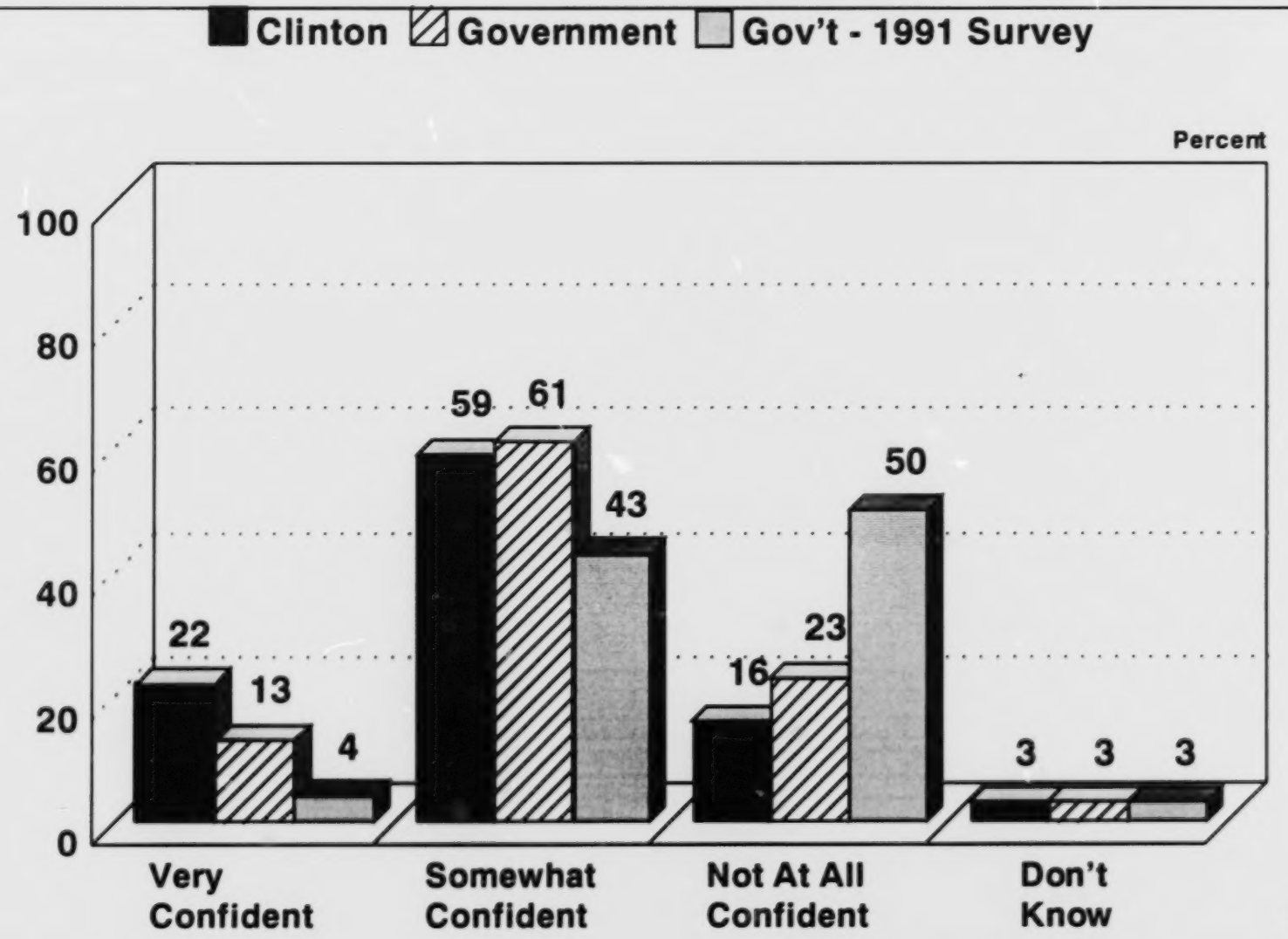


Target/Tarrance

Q9/10

Confidence In Clinton/Government

How Confident Are You That Clinton/Government Will Do What Is Right For Children?

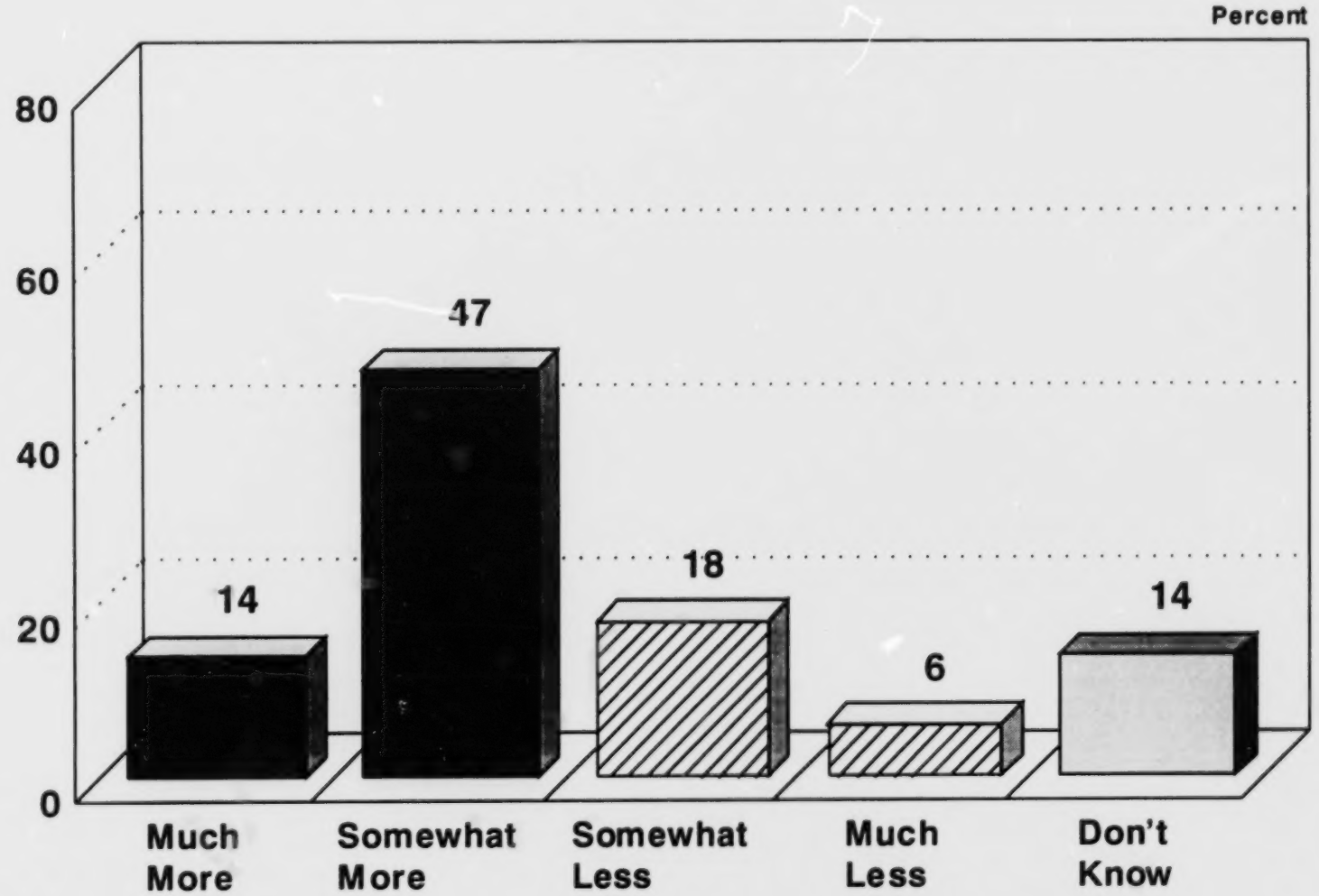


Target/Tarrance

Q14,18

Clinton's Proposals On Children

Do You Think Clinton Is More/Less Likely To Accomplish His Proposals On Children Than On Other Issues?



30

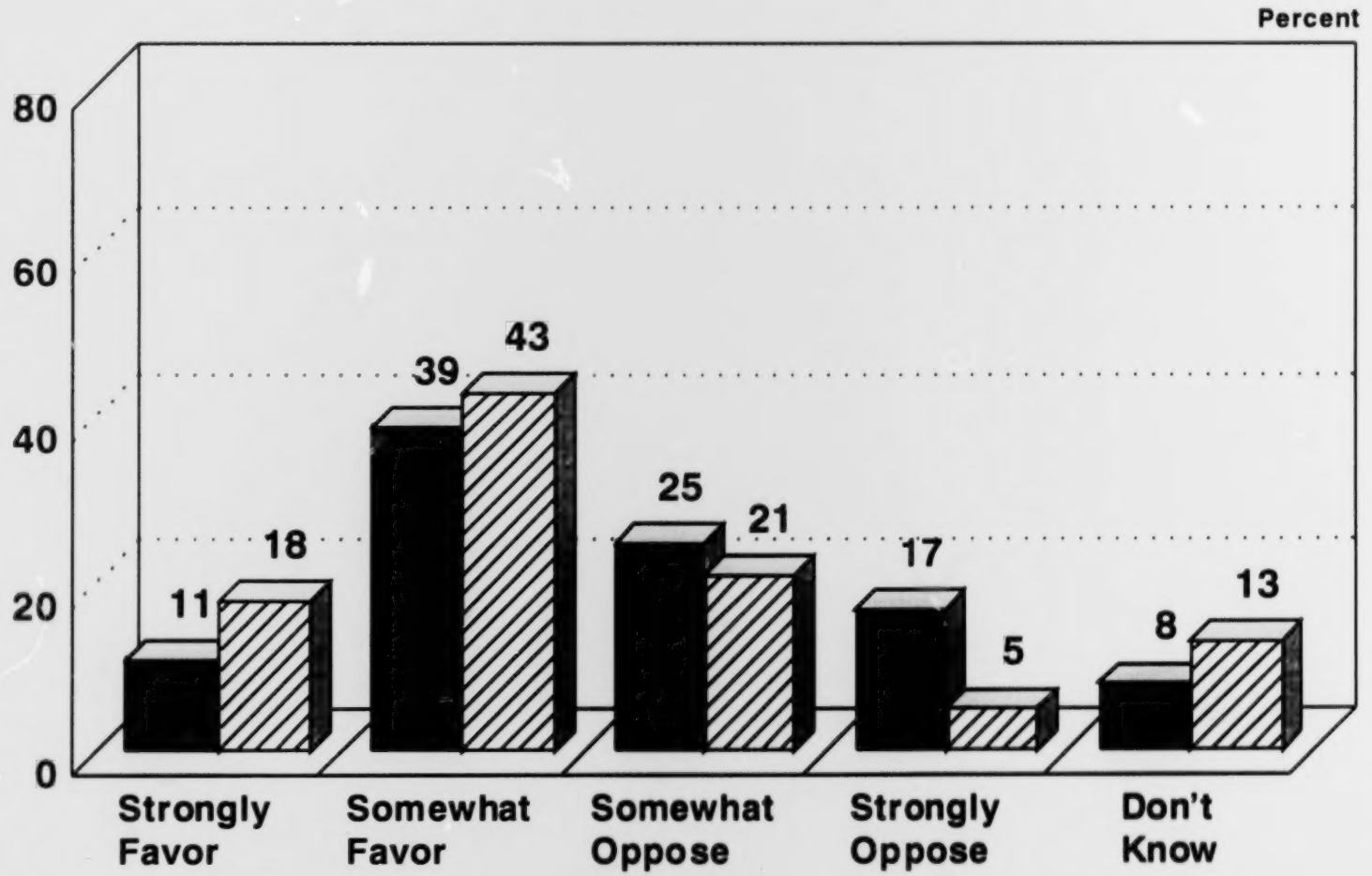
31

Target/Tarrance

Q20

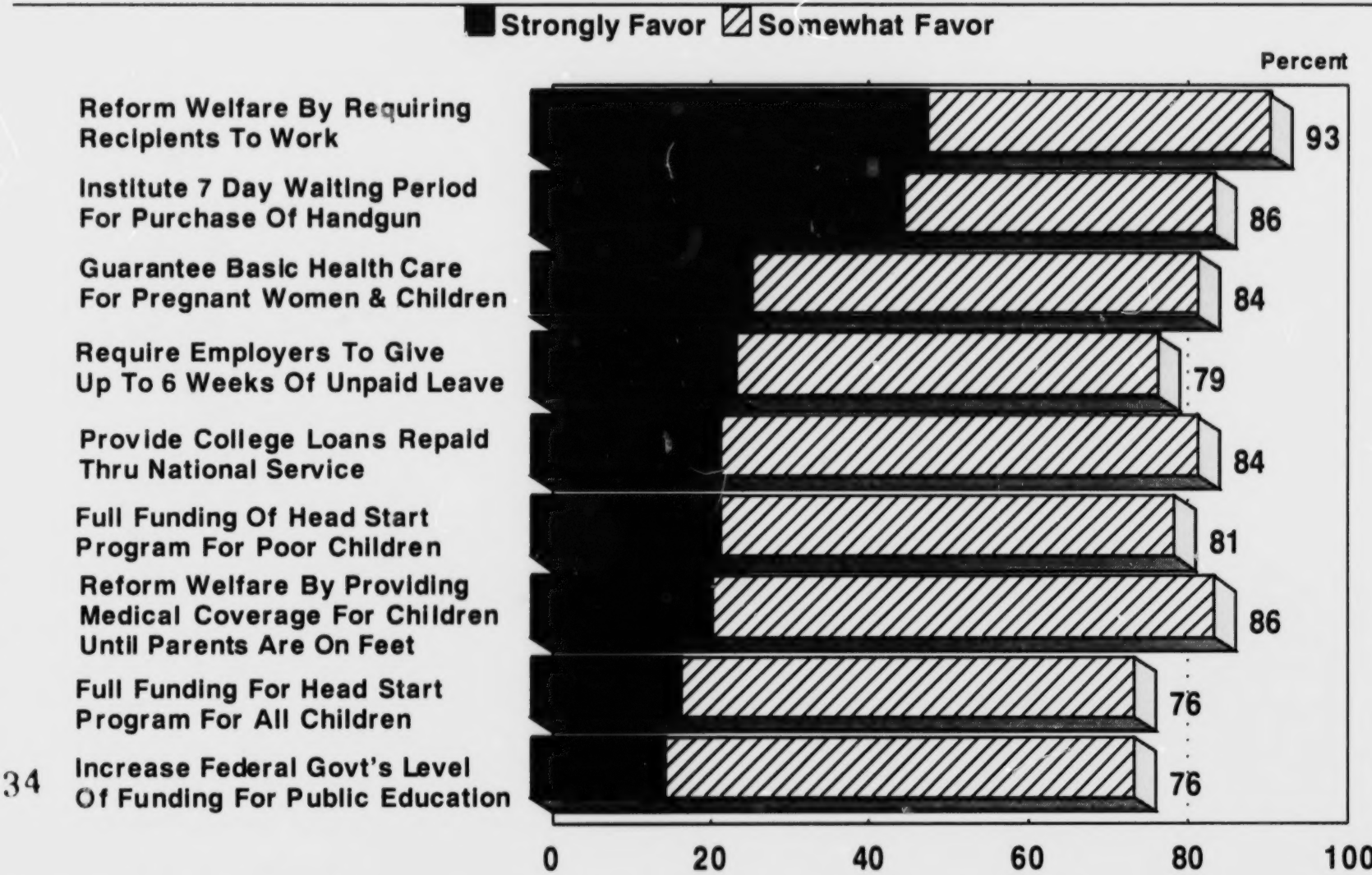
Effects Of Clinton Proposals

Would You Favor/Oppose Proposals If They Increased Deficit, Or Slowed Down His Ability To Reduce Deficit?



Proposals For Children

Would You Favor/Oppose These Specific Proposals, Even If It Meant Increasing Your Taxes?



Target/Tarrance

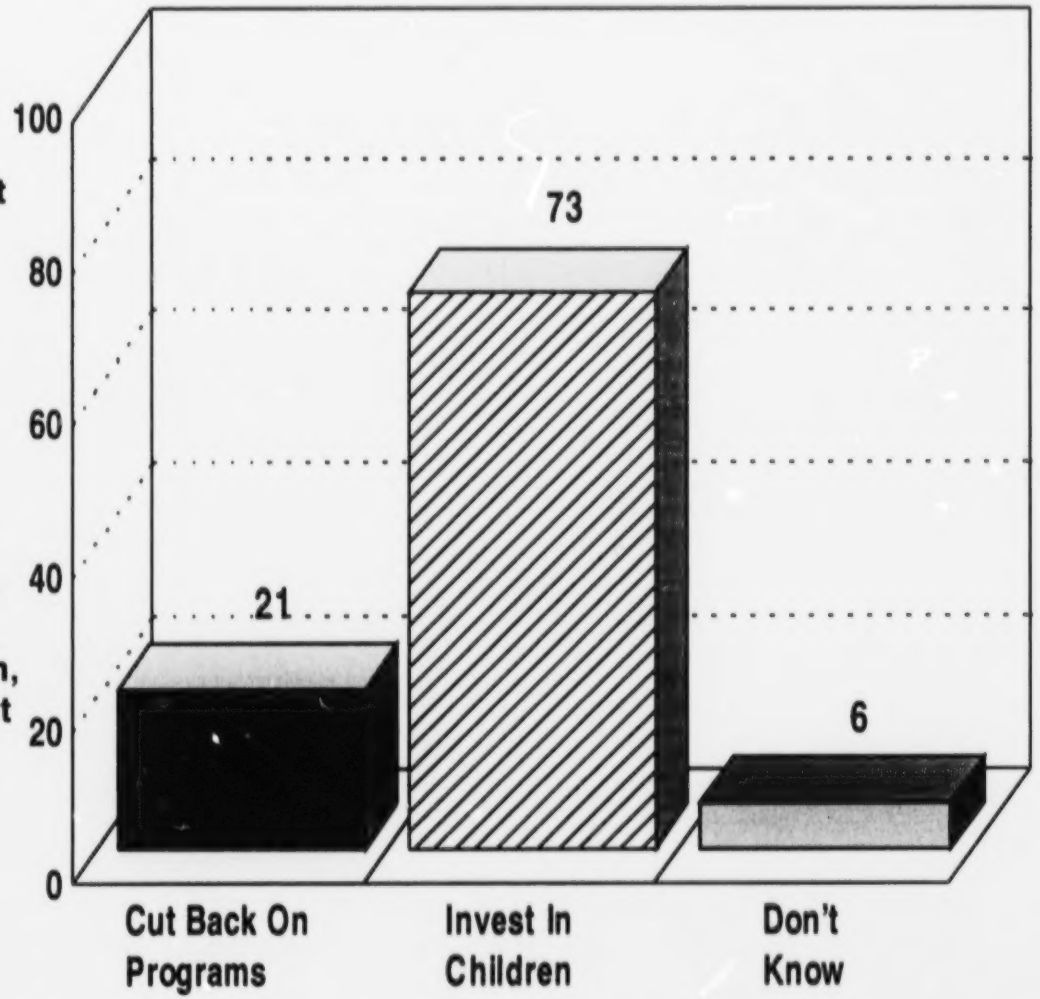
Q28-36

The Economy's Effect On Our Childrens' Future

Two Views

In recessionary times like these, we can't afford new programs, and should cut back on existing ones, even Head Start. To reduce the deficit we'll have to make sacrifices. We can't afford to leave the deficit to our children.

When it comes to children, we're going to have to pay now in good schools and health care, or pay after in remedial education, welfare, and prisons. Investing in our children is one of the best ways to get the economy moving again in the long run, and a growing economy will get us out of the deficit.



Survey: NACH-93-NA.F1
February 1993
National Frequency Questionnaire

FINAL
SPLIT SAMPLE A B

515 2nd Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

FILL OUT ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION
AFTER COMPLETING INTERVIEW

i. Phone # __/__/____

ii. Sex of respondent
male 47
female 53

iii. Split Sample
A 50
B 50

iv. Sample Type
National base 73
Any o/s area base 26
Any black oversample 1
FL hispanic oversample 0

v. State/County code

__ __ __ __ __
[enter 5 digit code]

vi. Date __/__/93
[enter 6 digit code: MM/DD/YY]

vii. Race of interviewer
Black 1
White2
Hispanic 3
Asian 4
Other 5

viii. Interview Completion

Primary number
1st attempt 1
1 call back 2
2+ call backs 3
Substitute number 4

ix. Verification
Verified 1
Not verified 2

Interviewer initials _____

Hello. This is (caller name). I'm calling for National Opinion Surveys. I would like to ask you a few questions concerning the problems facing our nation, state and local communities. We need a balance of men and women in this survey. May I speak to the youngest man, 18 years or older, who is at home right now?
[IF RESPONDENT, CONTINUE]
[IF YES, REPEAT INTRODUCTION FOR NEW RESPONDENT AND CONTINUE]
[IF NO MALE]
Okay, may I speak to the youngest woman, 18 years or older, who is at home right now?
[REPEAT INTRODUCTION OR CONTINUE WITH INTERVIEW]

1. First of all, are you registered to vote at this address?
[IF YES, CONTINUE]
[IF NO] I'm sorry. Is there a registered voter at home I can speak to? **[IF NO, TERMINATE]**

2. A lot of times things come up and people are not able to vote. In the last presidential election, did you support **[RANDOMIZE NAMES]:**
Republican George Bush Democrat Bill Clinton
Independent Ross Perot
or for some reason were you not able to vote in this election?

Republican Bush	28
Democrat Clinton	40
Independent Perot	13
(Didn't vote)	6
(Refused/Don't know)	14

Now let me read you what President Clinton has said are his priorities. For each one I would like you to tell me how important you think it is for the President to achieve this goal. Please give each statement a score between 1 and 7 -- 1 meaning that it is not at all important that the President have this goal and 7 meaning that it is very important that the President have this goal. You can give the statement any score between 1 and 7, including 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

[ROTATE Q3-Q8]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(Don't know)
3. Increasing growth and investment in the economy. Please rate that between 1 and 7.	2	3	4	6	18	19	46	3
4. Reducing the deficit	1	2	3	6	13	18	56	2
5. Reforming health care	1	2	4	5	14	20	53	1
6. Instituting national service to help pay for a college education	5	7	9	13	25	17	21	3
7. Reforming the way campaigns are financed	8	8	12	14	18	13	24	4
8. Reversing declining trends in children's health and education	2	2	4	7	13	23	50	2

9. Which of the following do you think would do the most to stimulate the economy in the long term, meaning beyond a two year time period:

[READ AND ROTATE CHOICES 1 - 8]

- Pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution 9
- Give the middle class a tax cut 16
- Job training to raise the skills of workers 14
- Crack down on unfair trade practices 6
- Reduce the federal budget deficit 14
- Raise income taxes on the wealthy, so that they pay their fair share 15
- Highway and transportation projects to create jobs 4
- Invest in the health and education of our children so they can compete in the global economy 20

(Other) 1
(Don't know) 2

10. And which would be your second choice?

[READ AND ROTATE CHOICES 1 - 8, DROPING FIRST MENTION]

- Pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution 8
- Give the middle class a tax cut 14
- Job training to raise the skills of workers 14
- Crack down on unfair trade practices 7
- Reduce the federal budget deficit 13
- Raise income taxes on the wealthy, so that they pay their fair share 13
- Highway and transportation projects to create jobs 7
- Invest in the health and education of our children so they can compete in the global economy 17

(Other) 1
(Don't know) 6

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

11. Some say that health care reform will have to be done in stages with new coverage phased in as the system develops. I'm going to read to you a list of groups that often have inadequate health insurance coverage under the current system. Please tell me which group you would make the priority for full health care coverage:

[READ AND ROTATE CHOICES 1 - 3]

Lower income children	45
Lower income senior citizens	28
Lower income working adults	20
(Don't know)	6

12. As a means of controlling health care costs, would you favor or oppose an overall cap on health care expenditures for people, sometimes called a global budget? **[FOLLOW UP]** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Strongly favor	23
Somewhat favor	42
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	5
(Don't know)	16

13. How important would it be to you for your state to rank in the top 10 states in health care and education for children -- very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

Very important	54
Somewhat important	35
Not very important	5
Not at all important	3
(Don't know)	3

14. How confident are you that President Clinton will do what is right for children most of the time -- very confident, somewhat confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	22
Somewhat confident	59
Not at all confident	16
(Don't know)	3

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A - GO TO Q19]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

15. Some say that health care reform will have to be done in stages with new coverage phased in as the system develops. I'm going to read to you a list of groups that often have inadequate health insurance coverage under the current system. Please tell me which group you would make the priority for full health care coverage:

[READ AND ROTATE CHOICES 1 - 3]

Children	45
Senior citizens	34
Working adults	17
(Don't know)	5

16. As a means of controlling health care costs, would you favor or oppose an overall cap on health care expenditures for people, including children, sometimes called a global budget? **[FOLLOW UP]** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Strongly favor	24
Somewhat favor	41
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	5
(Don't know)	14

17. How important would it be to you for your state to rank in the top 10 states in health care and education for children, even if it increased your taxes -- very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

Very important	40
Somewhat important	46
Not very important	8
Not at all important	4
(Don't know)	2

18. How confident are you that government will do what is right for children most of the time -- very confident, somewhat confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	13
Somewhat confident	61
Not at all confident	23
(Don't know)	3

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B - GO TO Q19]

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

19. In deciding which candidate to support for President, how important was it to your vote that Bill Clinton had a series of proposals on children's issues -- would you say that was extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not all that important, or were you not really aware that he had a series of proposals on children's issues?

Extremely important	9
Very important	25
Somewhat important	27
Not all that important	13
Not aware	24
(Don't know)	3

20. Thinking about Bill Clinton's proposals on children compared to his proposals on other issues, do you think Clinton is more likely or less likely to accomplish his proposals for children than his proposals on other issues? **[FOLLOW UP]** And is that much (more/less) or somewhat (more/less)?

Much more	14
Somewhat more	48
Somewhat less	18
Much less	6
(Don't know)	14

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

21. Would you favor or oppose Clinton's proposals for children and families if they increased the deficit? **[FOLLOW UP]** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Strongly favor	11
Somewhat favor	39
Somewhat oppose	25
Strongly oppose	17
(Don't know)	8

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A - GO TO Q23]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

22. Would you favor or oppose Clinton's proposals for children and families if they slowed down his ability to reduce the deficit? **[FOLLOW UP]** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Strongly favor	18
Somewhat favor	43
Somewhat oppose	21
Strongly oppose	5
(Don't know)	13

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B - GO TO Q23]

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

23. From what you know, has your member of Congress supported or opposed increased spending for children's programs, or aren't you sure?

Support	16
Oppose	7
Don't know	78

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

24. Well, if your member of Congress supported increased spending for children's programs which meant an increase in your taxes, would you be much more likely, more likely, less likely, or much less likely to vote for that Congressman in the future?

Much more likely	7
More likely	43
Less likely	18
Much less likely	10
(No difference)	17
(Don't know)	6

25. As a nationally-known attorney and wife of the Governor, Hillary Clinton fought for important reforms in Arkansas. Recently there has been a lot of talk about Hillary Clinton heading up the President's task force on health care reform. Because of her strong background in working for reform, it is expected that she will work diligently to push the task force toward making recommendations. From what you know, do you favor or oppose Hillary Clinton heading up the health care task force? **[FOLLOW UP]** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Strongly favor	31
Somewhat favor	44
Somewhat oppose	10
Strongly oppose	9
(Don't know)	7

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A - GO TO Q28]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

26. Well, if your member of Congress supported increased spending for children's programs, would you be much more likely, more likely, less likely, or much less likely to vote for that Congressman in the future?

Much more likely	12
More likely	51
Less likely	10
Much less likely	4
(No difference)	16
(Don't know)	6

27. As a nationally-known children's advocate and wife of the Governor, Hillary Clinton fought for important reforms for children in Arkansas. Recently there has been a lot of talk about Hillary Clinton heading up the President's task force on health care reform. Because of her strong background on children's issues, advocates expect that she will keep children's needs at the forefront of the task force recommendations for reforming our health care system. From what you know, do you favor or oppose Hillary Clinton heading up the health care task force? **[FOLLOW UP]** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Strongly favor	34
Somewhat favor	38
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	11
(Don't know)	7

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B - GO TO Q28]

Now I'd like to read to you a list of specific proposals for children. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following proposals, even if it meant an increase in your taxes. If you strongly favor or oppose any, please say so.

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	(Don't Know)
[ROTATE Q28-Q32]					
28. Increase the federal government's level of funding for public education. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?	17	59	18	4	3
29. Provide loans for college education, which a student can then pay back through service to their country as police officers or teachers, or by repaying with a percentage of their income after they graduate	24	61	11	2	3
30. Require employers to allow workers to take up to 6 weeks of unpaid leave to care for new children or a seriously ill family member	26	53	13	3	4
31. Guarantee basic health care for pregnant women and children.	28	56	10	2	4
32. Institute a 7 day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun.	47	39	9	3	3

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	(Don't Know)
[ROTATE Q33-Q34]					
33. Full funding of the Head Start program, which is a program to enroll poor children in pre-school education. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?	24	57	14	2	3
34. Reform welfare by requiring welfare recipients to work. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?	50	43	4	1	2

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A - GO TO Q37]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	(Don't Know)
35. Full funding of a new program similar to Head Start, which would enroll all children in pre-school education. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?	19	57	18	3	3
36. Reform welfare by providing child care and medical coverage to children on welfare for a period of time after their parentsbegin to work and get back on their feet. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?	23	63	11	1	2

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B - GO TO Q38]

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

37. Now I'm going to read you two statements. Please tell me which comes closer to your view.

Some people say that in recessionary times like these, we simply can't afford new programs and we will have to cut back on some existing programs, even ones like Head Start, health care for lower income children, and education spending. To get the deficit reduced and get the economy moving again we'll have to make some sacrifices in programs, even programs for children, because we cannot afford to leave the deficit to our children.

Other people say that when it comes to children we're going to have to pay now in good schools and health care, or pay even more later in remedial education, welfare and prisons. They say that investing in good schools and health care for children is one of the best ways to get our economy moving in the long run and to have productive prosperous adults. A growing economy will get us out of the deficit, so we need to set priorities, cutting in some places but doing what it takes to invest in children now.

Which one is closer to your view?

Cut back on programs	21
Invest in children	73
(Don't know)	6

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A - GO TO Q39]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

38. Now I'm going to read you two statements. Please tell me which comes closer to your view.

Some people say that in recessionary times like these, we simply can't afford new programs and we will have to cut back on some existing programs, even ones like Head Start, health care for lower income children, and education spending. To get the deficit reduced and get the economy moving again we'll have to make some sacrifices in programs, even programs for children.

Other people say that when it comes to children we're going to have to pay now in good schools and health care, or pay even more later in remedial education, welfare and prisons. They say that investing in good schools and health care for children is one of the best ways to get our economy moving in the long run and to have productive prosperous adults. A growing economy will get us out of the deficit, so we need to set priorities, cutting in some places but doing what it takes to invest in children now.

Which one is closer to your view?

Cut back on programs	20
Invest in children	74
(Don't know)	6

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B - GO TO Q39]

Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

39. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, or what?

Strong Democrat	21
Weak Democrat	23
Ind-Lean Democrat	7
Independent	14
Ind-Lean Republican	4
Weak Republican	15
Strong Republican	13
Other	1
Don't Know/Refused	3

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

40. Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or conservative?

Liberal	13
Somewhat liberal	13
Moderate	37
Somewhat conservative	15
Conservative	19
(Don't know)	3

41. What is your age?

[READ]

18-24 years	9
25-30	10
31-39	22
40-44	13
45-49	10
50-60	12
61-64	5
Over 64	18
(Refused/don't know)	1

42. Are you married, single, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Married	61
Single	20
Separated/divorced	9
Widowed	10
(Don't know)	1

43. **[IF MARRIED MALE]** Does your wife work, half-time or more, outside the home or would you say that her work is mainly at home?

Employed	59
At home	41
(Don't know)	0

44. **[IF FEMALE RESPONDENT]** Do you have a paid job, half-time or more, outside your home or would you say that your work is mainly at home?

Employed	52
At home	47
(Don't know)	1

45. Do you have any children?

Yes **[GO TO Q46]**	69
No **[GO TO Q48]**	30
(Don't know) **[GO TO Q48]**	1

46. **[IF Q45 = YES]** What is the age of the youngest?

Under 5	20
5-9	13
10-17	19
Over 17	48

47. **[IF Q45 = YES]** And do you have any grandchildren?

Yes	41
No	59
(Don't know)	0

48. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

1 - 11th grade	10
High school graduate	32
Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech)	3
Some college (jr. college)	24
College graduate	21
Post-graduate school	9
(don't know)	0

49. What is your race?

White	83
Black	9
Hispanic **[PUERTO RICAN, MEXICAN-AMERICAN, ETC.]**	5
(Other)	1
(Don't know/refused)	1

50. **SEE ABOVE**

51. Would you please tell me into which of the following categories the total yearly income of your household falls -- including every one in the household?

[READ]

Under $15,000	8
$15,000-$20,000	6
$20,000-$25,000	8
$25,000-$35,000	15
$35,000-$45,000	16
$45,000-$50,000	9
$50,000-$75,000	8
Over $75,000	7
(Retired)	10
(Refused/don't know)	14

And finally, strictly for verification purposes, can I have just your first name?

And your phone number so that it can be correctly marked off?

And your zip code?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME **[TERMINATE]**

ABOUT THE COALITION FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Mandate for Children is a publication of the Coalition for America's Children, contributed by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions. Additional reports are available from coalitions operating in the following states and cities: Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kansas City, Michigan, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin.

The Coalition for America's Children is a nonpartisan alliance of 250 national, state and community-based organizations working together to highlight the serious problems America's children face and to elevate their concerns to the top of the public policy agenda.

Members of the Coalition's Steering Committee include: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Retired Persons, American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, American Public Welfare Association, Association of Junior Leagues International, Benton Foundation, Child Welfare League of America, Children Now, Florida Center for Children and YOuth, Food Research and Action Center, For the Children, National Association of Child Advocates, National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Black Child Development Institute, National Education Association and Save the Children.

Launched officially in January 1992, the Coalition works through the 40 million Americans represented by its member organizations to promote the health, education, safety and security of all American children.

Through nonpartisan publications and activities, the Coalition educates the public on children's issues, urges candidates and policymakers of all persuasions and parties to take positions responsive to children's needs, and works to empower an informed electorate to regularly debate the issues and options and hold public officials accountable to children.

In 1992, local coalitions organized 100 candidate forums around the country, briefed 1,500 candidates for local, state and national office; collected written children's platforms from 950 candidates; and delivered 50,000 block walk kits to Coalition members all over the country who went door to door canvassing not for specific candidates but for the kids.

In October 1992, the coalition conducted the first presidential debate on children's issues, using satellite town hall formats to involve fifty cities in questioning campaign representatives.

The Coalition's slogan, who's for kids --- and who's just kidding?, has become the standard bearer for citizen action for children.

For further information about the Coalition and its programs around the country, contact: The Coalition for America's Children, c/o the M.B. Fund, One Farragut Square South, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20006.

The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) is a nonprofit association concerned with children's health needs and the people who take care of them. Founded in 1968, NACHRI maintains extensive data on children's health in general as well as descriptive data on its 125 member institutions in the U.S. and Canada. For further information, contact NACHRI at 401 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Additional copies of this report are available at $10 each from NACHRI; bulk discounts are available upon request.